(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted proposals for the development of ports in the Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals which are still pending and the progress made so far in respect thereof; and

(c) when were these proposals mooted and the reasons for the delay?

The MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Maharashtra Maritime Board had proposed four porjects of development of minor ports at Jaigad, Dharamtar, Redi and Vijaydurg under the proposed National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). Government has for the time being decided to prepare the National Maritime Development Programme, comprising schemes/ projects for development of Major Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport Systems.

Cost of Sethu Samudram Project

1788. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimate of the cost of Sethu Samudram project; and

(b) what is the amount alloted so far, and by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The approved cost of the project is Rs.2427.40 crores.

(b) The Government of India have contributed Rs.51 crores and other equity partners have contributed Rs.44.50 crores so far towards equity. The project is scheduled to be completed by November, 2008.

Nh-5 in Andhra Pradesh

1789. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has not responded positively to some representations pertaining to design and maintenance of some section of the NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that representation have been made to the NHAI regarding faulty design on NH-5 between the stretch from Rajanagaram to Annavaram in East Godavari district;